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EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

Statistics from various sources, which offer some indication of the change in the intensity of unemployment, and in the volume of factory employment, are made available by the Commonwealth Statistician (Mr. E.T. McPhee).

1. UNEMPLOYMENT, 1ST QUARTER, 1935.

The figures relating to unemployment are similar to those published quarterly in the past, and are derived from returns furnished by Trade Unions.

The number of trade unionists represented in the returns from which the following figures have been derived is normally about half the total. Generally it may be said that the returns of unemployment include little information about rural employment, so that the percentage results given herein do not vary greatly with the season, though the food preserving industries have some effect in this connection. The total unemployment in the country, however, may be affected a good deal by the crop seasons.

The percentages of unemployment among members of reporting Trade Unions for each quarter from the 1st Quarter of 1932 to the 1st Quarter of 1935, are as follows :-

1932	1st Quarter	..	28.3	per cent
	2nd "	..	30.0	" "
	3rd "	..	29.6	" "
	4th "	..	28.1	" "
1933	1st "	..	26.5	" "
	2nd "	..	25.7	" "
	3rd "	..	25.1	" "
	4th "	..	23.0	" "
1934	1st "	..	21.9	" "
	2nd "	..	20.9	" "
	3rd "	..	20.4	" "
	4th "	..	18.8	" "
1935	1st "	..	18.6	" "

It should be noted that the figures refer to the mid-month of each quarter, and represent the conditions at the middle of that month. Consequently, the latest figures referred to herein relate to the middle of February, 1935.

The percentages given above show the peak point in unemployment attained in the 2nd Quarter of 1932, after an almost continuous rise since 1929. After remaining fairly constant at 28.0 per cent. to 28.3 per cent. for three quarters - from August 1931, to February 1932 - the maximum point was reached in May 1932, when the proportion of unemployment in the reporting Trade Unions was 30 per cent. of the membership.

From the apex, the proportion of unemployed decreased by 4 per thousand in the third quarter of 1932, and in the two quarters following; the improvement was much more marked, amounting to 15 per 1,000 in the fourth quarter of 1932, and 16 per 1,000 in the first quarter of 1933. The improvement continued until unemployment stood at 18.6 per cent. for February, 1935. This is the lowest percentage of unemployment since May, 1930, when it was 18.5 per cent. Since the maximum point in May, 1932, the rate of unemployment has diminished by 11.4 per cent., or 114 per 1,000 members, i.e., from 30.0 in May, 1932, to 18.6 per cent. in February, 1935.

This improvement since the 2nd Quarter of 1932 has been experienced in all the States in the following order (per 1,000 members):- Western Australia, 149; South Australia, 145; Victoria, 127; Tasmania, 107; Queensland, 101; New South Wales, 96. The more recent improvement during the 1st Quarter, 1935, over the previous quarter was shared by four States in the following order:- Improvement per 1,000 members - South Australia, 26; Western Australia, 9; Victoria and Tasmania, 3. The New South Wales figure remained practically unchanged, while Queensland showed an increase in unemployment of 7 per 1,000 members.

The improvement in unemployment, since the peak in 1932, has been general throughout all those classes of industry for which information is available. The improvement per 1,000 members has been as follows :- "Other" Manufacturing (undefined), 217; Building, 192; Engineering, Metal Works, etc., 137; Wood, Furniture etc., 122; Land Transport, other than Railway and Tramway Services, 121; Clothing, etc., 95; Books, Printing etc., 83; Miscellaneous, 75; Food, Drink, etc., 45; Mining, Quarrying etc., 37.

The usual tables for Trade Union Unemployment are appended;

UNEMPLOYMENT - AUSTRALIA - Number and Membership of Trade Unions Reporting, and Number and Percentage Unemployed - 1st Quarter, 1929, to 1st Quarter, 1935.

AUSTRALIA		1st Quarter 1929	2nd Quarter 1932	1st Quarter 1934	2nd Quarter 1934	3rd Quarter 1934	4th Quarter 1934	1st Quarter 1935
Number of Unions	..	375	396	394	394	394	396	396
Membership	..	420,756	413,742	422,056	422,113	425,104	426,866	433,116
Unemployed - Number	..	39,159	124,068	92,297	88,413	86,652	80,097	80,548
Percentage		9.3	30.0	21.9	20.9	20.4	18.8	18.6

Percentage of Members of Trade Unions returned as Unemployed in each State 1st Quarter, 1929, to 1st Quarter, 1935.

STATE		1st Quarter 1929	2nd Quarter 1932	1st Quarter 1934	2nd Quarter 1934	3rd Quarter 1934	4th Quarter 1934	1st Quarter 1935
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
New South Wales	..	9.7	33.2	25.8	25.0	24.5	23.5	23.6
Victoria	..	8.6	27.7	18.6	18.0	17.5	15.3	15.0
Queensland	..	7.1	19.9	13.7	12.7	11.4	9.1	9.8
South Australia	..	13.2	35.2	28.5	25.4	25.4	23.0	20.7
Western Australia	..	8.5	30.3	19.5	18.3	17.2	16.3	15.4
Tasmania	..	8.7	27.4	17.7	17.9	18.9	17.0	16.7
TOTAL:		9.3	30.0	21.9	20.9	20.4	18.8	18.6

Unemployment Percentages in Industrial Groups - AUSTRALIA - 1st Quarter, 1929, to 1st Quarter, 1935.

INDUSTRIAL GROUP		1st Quarter 1929	2nd Quarter 1932	1st Quarter 1934	2nd Quarter 1934	3rd Quarter 1934	4th Quarter 1934	1st Quarter 1935
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.		6.5	39.6	31.7	31.1	29.3	28.8	27.4
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	..	11.2	33.9	24.8	24.2	22.6	21.1	20.2
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco etc.		5.4	19.4	15.5	17.1	17.9	15.7	14.9
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots etc.		9.8	22.6	16.0	12.5	13.8	11.5	13.1
V. Books, Printing etc.		2.6	16.8	11.8	11.7	10.8	9.6	8.5
VI. Other Manufacturing		13.8	43.0	26.8	24.7	24.1	21.8	21.3
VII. Building	..	10.6	42.1	30.8	28.2	26.0	23.4	22.9
VIII. Mining, Quarrying etc.		13.2	34.2	27.9	28.3	30.3	29.4	31.5
X. Land Transport, other than Railway & Tramway Services	..	7.6	29.6	22.1	21.1	20.2	19.0	17.5
XI, XII, XIII and XIV. Other and Miscellaneous		7.3	22.2	16.7	16.5	15.9	14.6	14.7
TOTAL:		9.3	30.0	21.9	20.9	20.4	18.8	18.6

Unemployment Percentages in Industrial Groups - STATES - 1st Quarter, 1935.

Industrial Group	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	AUST.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	25.9	35.7	4.1	30.2	22.8	16.6	27.4
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	24.4	15.7	8.1	28.2	13.0	7.2	20.2
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco etc.	19.7	7.2	17.2	14.5	10.6	17.4	14.9
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	18.8	11.5	7.1	14.1	20.7	6.0	13.1
V. Books, Printing, etc.	12.7	5.4	3.2	10.3	11.4	7.5	8.5
VI. Other Manufacturing	30.7	15.8	4.0	8.6	12.3	15.7	21.3
VIII Building ..	22.6	22.2	17.2	40.6	15.6	30.9	22.9
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	34.0	19.7	27.3	-	17.3	29.7	31.5
X. Land Transport, other than Rail- way and Tramway Services	27.8	12.3	4.0	24.0	23.6	28.5	17.5
IX, XI, XII, XIII, and XIV. Other and Miscellaneous ..	18.2	10.7	7.8	10.0	12.3	14.7	14.7
ALL GROUPS:	23.6	15.0	9.8	20.7	15.4	16.7	18.6

II. EMPLOYMENT.

As a supplement to the figures of unemployment given above, some figures indicating the changes in employment in factories are given below for four States. The figures for New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia have been supplied by the Government Statisticians for those States, (for convenience of comparison the figures for New South Wales have been converted to a percentage basis) while the figures for Queensland have been taken from the "Economic News" issued by the Queensland Bureau of Industry. Similar figures are not available for Victoria or Tasmania.

The figures given immediately below for New South Wales are based on 42 factories representing about 11 per cent. of all factory employment in that State; the South Australian figures are based on not less than 50 per cent. of all factory employment; while Western Australian figures cover 35 per cent. of all persons similarly employed.

INDEX OF FACTORY EMPLOYMENT.

BASE: New South Wales results are shown as percentages on the numbers employed in January 1930; South Australian and Western Australian figures are related to the average monthly employment for the year 1929-30.

No allowance has been made in the following figures for increased population.

MONTH	New South Wales	South Australia	Western Australia
January, 1930	100	100 (a)	100 (a)
January, 1931	75	72	(b)
January, 1932	76	71	65
January, 1933	84	80	82
January, 1934	91	88	89
October, 1933	95	85	87
November, "	97	88	89
December, "	96	88	91
February, 1934	96	94	90
March, "	97	96	93
April, "	98	97	95
May, "	99	101	92
June, "	99	98	91
July, "	99	98	90
August, "	101	100	92
September, "	102	102	96
October, "	104	103	97
November, "	104	103	96
December, "	103	105	98

(a) Base - Year 1929-30 (b) Not available Ø Dispute in Textile Industry.

/A more

A more recent investigation by the Government Statistician of New South Wales, which was extended to 98 of the larger factories, indicates that there were 47,206 employees on the pay sheets in the middle week of December, 1934, compared with 41,614 in the corresponding week of 1933, and 38,923 in 1932. This represents an increase in factory employment of 21 per cent. in two years. These results are slightly higher than the figures obtained from the 42 factories referred to above.

QUEENSLAND. (From "Economic News").

Employment and Unemployment - Men Wage-earners.

(Full-Time, including its equivalent in "rationed" Employment and Unemployment).

PERIOD	Percentage of all who are dependent on employment.		Approximate number (including the equivalent of rationing).	
	Employed	Unemployed	Employed	Unemployed
Average 1929 ..	89.9	10.1	148,340	16,660
" 1930 ..	86.4	13.6	144,630	22,850
" 1931 ..	77.2	22.8	131,270	38,730
" 1932 ..	77.8	22.2	134,130	38,320
" 1933 ..	79.8	20.2	139,720	35,310
" 1934 ..	84.9	15.1	150,870	26,800
3 Months ended -				
December, 1933 ..	79.8	20.2	140,040	35,540
June, 1934 ..	85.0	15.0	150,910	26,640
July, 1934 ..	85.0	15.0	151,040	26,730
August, " ..	85.8	14.2	152,630	25,360
September, " ..	86.0	14.0	153,180	25,030
October, " ..	88.3	11.7	157,630	20,800
November, " ..	88.8	11.2	158,630	20,020
December, " ..	89.3	10.7	159,750	19,130
January, 1935 ..	87.2	12.8	156,160	22,940

The Director of the Queensland Bureau of Industry remarks that there has been considerably more than the usual seasonal decline in employment, partly accounted for by a short sugar-crushing season and dry conditions in sugar districts.

BUILDING PERMITS.

A further index of the relative activity in industry is furnished by Building Permits issued, and the estimated amount to be spent on the proposed buildings and repairs.

The following table gives details of the value of Building Permits issued in the Six Capital Cities and Suburbs of the Commonwealth for the periods shown.

YEAR			New Dwellings	Other New Buildings	Alterations and Additions	Total Value All Building Operations
			£	£	£	£
1928	..	..	(a) 18,385,948	(a) 5,042,277	(a) 3,547,877	(a) 26,976,102
1929	..	..	(a) 15,794,936	(a) 4,538,292	(a) 3,692,478	(a) 24,025,706
1930	..	..	(a) 4,622,901	(a) 1,999,198	(a) 1,916,652	(a) 8,538,751
1931	..	..	1,286,265	1,849,035	1,149,811	4,285,111
1932	..	..	2,996,594	1,716,129	1,686,172	6,398,895
1933	..	..	4,272,974	1,979,095	2,368,824	8,620,893
1934	..	..	7,798,653	2,650,427	3,538,183	13,987,263
1931 - 4th Quarter	..	..	326,546	152,186	235,760	714,492
1932 - " "	..	..	781,680	329,055	564,679	1,675,414
1933 - " "	1,246,137	742,899	613,759	2,602,795
1934 - " "	2,030,257	945,822	890,870	3,866,949

(a) Exclusive of City of Sydney.

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